UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/877,967	06/08/2001	James C. Bedingfield	60027.0103US01/BS00241	2161

7590 01/14/2004

Leonard J Hope
P O Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER	
DANIEL JR, WILLIE J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2686	8

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/877,967	BEDINGFIELD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Willie J. Daniel, Jr.	2686	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06/08/2001 is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 and 7.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08 June 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because of **Form PTO-948** sections 11 and 12. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
3. **Figure 1** (see pg. 2, line 21-22) should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
4. The drawings are objected to because **Fig. 1 "ref. 12"**, **"ref. 18"**, **"ref. 20"**, **"ref. 22"**, and **"ref. 26"** are associated with multiple elements. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
5. The drawings are objected to because **Fig. 1** has three elements that are not labeled in which the examiner interprets to be landline telecommunications units. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: **Fig. 2** has "**ref. 20a**" and "**ref. 20b**"; **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4** has "**P**" which are not in specification. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

   a. Tandem office is referred to as "**ref. 60**" on pg. 13, line 13 and "**ref. 54**" on pg. 13, line 16.

   b. Examiner interprets "**12a,c**" on pg. 13, line 17 to be "**12a-c**".

   c. Examiner interprets "**ref. 84**" on pg. 15, line 6 and 14 to be "**ref. 86**".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **O'Neil et al. (US 5,963,864)**.

Regarding **Claim 1**, O'Neil et al. discloses a system (see col. 8, line 43-50; Fig. 1) for providing a simultaneous ring service for a subscriber (see abstract; col. 8, line 43-50; Figs. 4a-b and 5), comprising:

a switch (16a-b) in communication with a "wireline" which hereinafter reads on the claimed "landline" telecommunications unit (20e or 20f) associated with the subscriber for detecting a first terminating trigger specific to the service in response to an incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) from a calling party (20a-d) (see col. 10, line 8 - col. 11, line 24; Figs. 4a-b and 5);

a service control point (24) in communication with the switch (16b) for determining, in response to detection of the first terminating trigger by the switch (16b), whether the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and an associated wireless telecommunications unit (34) of the subscriber are available (col. 12, lines 5-40; col. 16, line 57 - col. 17, line 19; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

a services node (30) in communication with the switch (16b) for receiving the incoming communication from the switch (16b) when the service control point (24) determines that

both the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and the wireless telecommunications unit (34) are available, and, in response thereto, for placing first and second outgoing communications (see col. 12, line 41 - col. 13, line 8; col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 19; Figs. 4a-b and 5),

wherein the switch (16b) is further for routing the second outgoing communication to the landline telecommunication unit and for detecting a second terminating trigger in response to the first outgoing communication (see col. 16, lines 4-30; Figs. 4a-b and 5), and

wherein the service control point, in response to detection of the second terminating trigger by the switch (16b), is further for instructing the switch to route the second outgoing communication to the wireless telecommunications unit (see col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 19; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 2**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system (Fig. 1) of claim 1, wherein the services node (30) is further for:

connecting the incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) when the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is answered before the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 21, lines 50-59; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

connecting the incoming communication to the wireless telecommunications unit (34) when the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is answered before the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 21, lines 50-59; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 3**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system (Fig. 1) of claim 2, wherein the services node (30) is further for:

dropping the first outgoing communication when the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is answered before the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 23, lines 38-67; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

dropping the second outgoing communication when the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is answered before the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 23, lines 38-67; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 4**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 3, wherein the service control point (24) includes an associated database (28) storing a directory number associated with the wireless telecommunications unit (see col. 15, lines 40-53; Fig. 1), and

wherein the services node (30) is not for storing the directory number associated with the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 12, lines 11-24; col. 15, lines 40-53; Fig. 1), where the directory number for the wireless telecommunications unit is stored in the database of the SCP for the extension services provided.

Regarding **Claim 5**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the services node (30) is further for placing the second "leg" which reads on the claimed hereinafter "outgoing" communication a predetermined time period after placing the first outgoing communication (see col. 20, line 66 - col. 21, line13), where the directing to the wireless unit takes a certain time period to setup then directing to the wireline unit so the rings would be simultaneous because of the delay through the wireless network.

Regarding **Claim 6**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the service control point (24) is for determining whether the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is

available by sending a query message to the switch (16b) requesting a status of the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 16, line 66 - col. 17, line 12; Figs. 4a-b).

Regarding **Claim 7**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 6, wherein the service control point (24) is for determining whether the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available by sending a query message to a home location register requesting the status of the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 16, line 56-65; col. 18, line 6-19; Figs. 4a-b).

Regarding **Claim 8**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 7, wherein the service control point (24) is further for determining that the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available when the home location register (40) does not respond to the query message within a predetermined time period (see col. 14, lines 15-33; Figs. 1), when there is no response within a certain period of time from the HLR of the availability of the wireless unit the system will check the VLR when the wireless unit is roaming (see col. 18, line 4-19).

Regarding **Claim 9**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 1, wherein the service control point (24) is further for instructing the switch (16b) to route the incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) when the service control point determines that at least one of the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and the wireless telecommunications unit (34) are not available (see col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 12).

Regarding **Claim 10**, O'Neil et al. discloses a method for providing a simultaneous ring service for a subscriber (see abstract; col. 8, line 43-50; Figs. 4a-b and 5), comprising:

detecting an incoming communication from a calling party (20a-d) to a landline telecommunications (20e) unit associated with the subscriber (see col. 8, line 43-50);

determining, in response to detection of the incoming communication, whether the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and an associated wireless telecommunications unit (34) of the subscriber are available (see col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 19; Fig. 4A-B and 5);

placing first and second outgoing communications when both the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and the wireless telecommunications unit (34) are available (see col. 20, line 66 - col. 21, line 48; Figs. 4A '110' and 5 '210');

routing the second outgoing communication to the landline telecommunication unit (20e) (see col. 21, line 2-25; Fig. 1);

detecting a trigger in response to the first outgoing communication (see col. 21, lines 13-25), where the trigger determines the status of the wireless unit; and

routing, in response to detection of the trigger, the first communication to the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 21, line 26-48; Figs. 4A-B and 5; Fig. 1).

Regarding **Claim 11**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising:

connecting the incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) when the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is answered before the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 21, lines 50-59; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

connecting the incoming communication to the wireless telecommunications unit (34) when the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is answered before the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 21, lines 50-59; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 12**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 11, further comprising:

dropping the first outgoing communication when the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is answered before the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 23, lines 38-67; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

dropping the second outgoing communication when the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is answered before the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 23, lines 38-67; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 13**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 10, wherein placing the first and second outgoing communications includes placing the first outgoing communication a predetermined time period before placing the second outgoing communication (see col. 20, line 66 - col. 21, line13), where the directing to the wireless unit takes a certain time period to setup then directing to the wireline unit so the rings would be simultaneous because of the delay through the wireless network.

Regarding **Claim 14**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 10, wherein determining whether the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is available includes sending a query message requesting a status of the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 16, line 66 - col. 17, line 12; Figs. 4a-b).

Regarding **Claim 15**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 14, wherein determining whether the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available includes sending a query message to a home location register requesting a status of the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 16, line 56-65; col. 18, line 6-19; Figs. 4a-b).

Regarding **Claim 16**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 15, wherein

determining whether the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available includes determining that the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available when the home location register (40) does not respond to the query message within a predetermined time period (see col. 14, lines 15-33; Figs. 1), when there is no response within a certain period of time from the HLR of the availability of the wireless unit the system will check the VLR when the wireless unit is roaming (see col. 18, line 4-19).

Regarding **Claim 17**, O'Neil et al. discloses the method of claim 10, further comprising routing the incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) when it is determined that at least one of the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and the wireless telecommunications unit (34) are not available (see col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 12).

Regarding **Claim 18**, O'Neil et al. discloses a system for providing a simultaneous ring service for a subscriber (see abstract; col. 8, line 43-50; Figs. 1, 4a-b, and 5), comprising:

means for detecting an incoming communication from a calling party (20a-d) to a landline telecommunications unit (20e) associated with the subscriber (see col. 8, line 43-50);

programmable determination means for determining, in response to detection of the incoming communication, whether the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and an associated wireless telecommunications unit (34) of the subscriber are available (see col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 19; Fig. 4A-B and 5);

programmable service means for placing first and second outgoing communications when both the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and the wireless telecommunications unit (34) are available (see col. 20, line 66 - col. 21, line 48; Figs. 4A '110' and 5 '210');

switching means for routing the second outgoing communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 21, line 2-25; Fig. 1);

means for detecting a trigger in response to the first outgoing (see col. 21, lines 13-25), where the trigger determines the status of the wireless unit (see col. 21, line 2-25; Fig. 1); and

switching means for routing, in response to detection of the trigger, the first communication to the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 21, line 26-48; Figs. 4A-B and 5).

Regarding **Claim 19**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 18, wherein the programmable service means further include:

programmable switching means for connecting the incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) when the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is answered before the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 21, lines 50-59; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

programmable switching means for connecting the incoming communication to the wireless telecommunications unit (34) when the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is answered before the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 21, lines 50-59; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 20**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 19, wherein the programmable service means further include:

programmable means for dropping the first outgoing communication when the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is answered before the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 23, lines 38-67; Figs. 4a-b and 5); and

programmable means for dropping the second outgoing communication when the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is answered before the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 23, lines 38-67; Figs. 4a-b and 5).

Regarding **Claim 21**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 18, wherein the programmable service means for placing the first and second outgoing communications includes programmable service means for placing the first outgoing communication a predetermined time period before placing the second outgoing communication (see col. 20, line 66 - col. 21, line13), where the directing to the wireless unit takes a certain time period to setup then directing to the wireline unit so the rings would be simultaneous because of the delay through the wireless network.

Regarding **Claim 22**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 18, wherein the programmable means for determining whether the landline telecommunications unit (20e) is available includes programmable means for sending a query message requesting a status of the landline telecommunications unit (20e) (see col. 16, line 66 - col. 17, line 12; Figs. 4a-b).

Regarding **Claim 23**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 22, wherein the programmable means for determining whether the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available includes programmable means sending a query message to a home location register requesting a status of the wireless telecommunications unit (34) (see col. 16, line 56-65; col. 18, line 6-19; Figs. 4a-b).

Regarding **Claim 24**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 23, wherein the programmable means for determining whether the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available includes programmable means for determining that the wireless telecommunications unit (34) is available when the home location register (40) does not respond to the query message within a predetermined time period (see col. 14, lines 15-33; Figs. 1), when there is no response within a certain period of time from the HLR of the availability of the wireless unit the system will check the VLR when the wireless unit is roaming (see col. 18, line 4-19).

Regarding **Claim 25**, O'Neil et al. discloses the system of claim 18, further comprising switching means for routing the incoming communication to the landline telecommunications unit (20e) when it is determined that at least one of the landline telecommunications unit (20e) and the wireless telecommunications unit (34) are not available (see col. 16, line 52 - col. 17, line 12).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gerszberg et al. (US 5,956,631) discloses a *Multiple Terminal Device Ringing Digital Subscriber ISDN Terminal.*

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Willie J. Daniel, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 305-8636. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-3180.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-5424.

WJD,JR/wjd,jr
06 January 2004

CHARLES APPIAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER